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out, but, harder still, all this new matter he has fitted into the original Greenleaf, and the work is well done. The completeness of the lists of authorities brought down to date, care in composition, a thorough grasp of principles, and orderly workmanship at once mark the work apart from the modern machine-made text-book. Sometimes perhaps the author shows a certain rashness in his statements, a willingness to see the progress of the law in the progressive tendencies of certain jurisdictions; but on the whole it is eminently sound. There is one practical objection to the book—perhaps unavoidable, when we remember the plan of the edition—it is not an easy book to use. Mr. Wigmore's mechanical devices for distinguishing the various strata of Greenleaf, and his editors are hardly adequate, the sublettering of sections that almost exhausts the alphabet is inconvenient, and the original Greenleaf is sometimes almost muffled by the explanations. Again, those portions of the text which Mr. Wigmore has himself supplied are occasionally not clear because of an overminuteness of detail. But these are the almost necessary faults of an exhaustive text-book; in spite of them, Mr. Wigmore's work is admirable.

J. P. C. JR.

THE LAW OF PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE. By John D. Lawson. Second Edition. St. Louis: Central Law Journal Company. 1899. pp. xcii, 710.

Presumptions and rules of presumption are commonly enough classified as belonging peculiarly to the law of evidence,—an error doubtless due to ill-considered phraseology of the judges. A presumption—that which is taken for granted—is merely a name for a method of abbreviating judicial inquiries—a short cut in argument based on probability or on policy. It belongs primarily to the subject of “legal reasoning;” and in many cases it hardens into a fixed rule of substantive law,—as where twenty years’ adverse possession requires the inference of a lost grant. The facts on which the presumption is based are evidence, but the rule of inference does nothing more than fix the “legal equivalence of facts.” Thayer, *Preliminary Treatise on Evidence*, 317. In view of this the title of the second edition of Mr. Lawson’s book, “The Law of Presumptive Evidence,” would seem ill-phrased. A presumption may accomplish the result of evidence,—it cannot be styled so much probative matter.

But although the title be questionable Mr. Lawson’s work is a distinct success. The first edition aimed to set forth the law of presumptions under one hundred and thirty-nine rules, illustrated from decided cases with discussions showing the reasoning of the courts in applying a particular rule. In this second edition the author has brought the book up to date with an exhaustive list of authorities. He has introduced also a novel feature in indicating on a side page which of the particular rules have been approved by courts of last resort. The subject is dealt with in six parts: The Presumption of Knowledge; The Presumptions of Regularity and Innocence; The Presumptions of Continuance and Uniformity; The Presumptions in the Law of Real Property; The Presumptions in Criminal Cases; General Rules. Unencumbered by lengthy commentary of the reasons for or against any particular rule, the book is an admirable working manual of ready reference. No attempt has been made to point out the relation of presumptions to other branches of the law or to choose between conflicting theories—notably on p. 255. Mr.

Lawson has wisely avoided extended comment as unnecessary for the working practitioner, choosing rather to devote the space to extracts from opinions and a systematic list of authorities. He has produced a book which is sure to be of inestimable service, if not to the beginner, to the bar and bench.

J. W.

We have also received :

IMPERIAL RULE IN INDIA ; being an Examination of the Principles proper to the Government of Dependencies. By Theodore Morison. Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. 1899. pp. 147. This book is a brief examination of the Indian government and the progress which it has made toward the time when India may be self-governing. Speaking generally, the author's conclusion is that that time is indefinitely postponed because of the lack of national feeling among the nations. He suggests, as a means of unifying the discordant elements, the cultivation of a greater feeling of emotional loyalty to the personal sovereign, the Empress of India. His analysis of the present condition of Indian affairs, of a distrustful and almost disaffected population, is more convincing to the ignorant reader than his system of remedies. The book is careful, clear, and interesting, and the general point of view remarkably sane and free from prejudice. The main interest that the book has to Americans at the present moment is, of course, in the comparison which it inevitably presents between India and our own dependencies. The disaffection and coolness that mark an Indian conquered people are not likely to be absent from the Philipinos. The suggested remedy of fostering loyalty to a personal sovereign is laughably inappropriate.

A DICTIONARY OF WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN ANCIENT AND MODERN LAW. By Arthur English. Washington, D. C.: Washington Law Book Co. 1899. pp. 979. This volume differs distinctly from the general run of law dictionaries in that it is confined strictly to definition and is not a law encyclopaedia. The reader looking to find an account of any law subject at length will be disappointed. The definitions are short and concise, but they are apparently careful, and the collection of words and phrases both ancient and modern is exceedingly extensive and well chosen. Such a book must necessarily from its very conciseness be incomplete and unsatisfactory in many respects, but it has a legitimate place, and should prove a useful addition to the reference library of either lawyer or student. A list of abbreviated titles of reports and textbooks in the appendix gives it an added practical value which the practising lawyer will not fail to appreciate. An error noticed in this list was the citation of the *New England Reporter* alone for the abbreviation *N. E. Rep.* and the omission of the *North Eastern Reporter* for which this abbreviation usually stands.

STATE TRIALS. Edited by Charles E. Lloyd. Chicago: Callaghan & Company. 1899. pp. vi, 260. The standard edition of the *State Trials* is that of T. B. Howell, in twenty-one volumes, London: 1816. That great collection has always been held in the highest esteem by lawyers and by students of English history. The aim of the editor of the present series is "to place these valuable and interesting old English classics in